



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <https://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU APPROVES ASTAC'S AND GCI'S REVISED PERFORMANCE PLANS PURSUANT TO THE ALASKA PLAN ORDER

WC Docket No. 16-271

By this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau approves Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative's (ASTAC) and GCI Communication Corp.'s revised performance plans, filed pursuant to the terms provided by the *Alaska Plan Order*.¹ The approved performance plans are included in the attached Appendix.

The Commission's *Alaska Plan Order* requires eligible wireless service providers participating in the Alaska Plan (Plan) to submit for Bureau approval individual performance plans with service commitments.² Pursuant to the *Alaska Plan Order*,³ the Bureau approved wireless service providers' initial plans in 2016.⁴

Participants, including ASTAC and GCI, who, in their initial plan exclusively relied upon performance-limiting satellite backhaul to serve all or a portion of the population in their service area, are required to certify if terrestrial backhaul or new-generation satellite backhaul became commercially available in the previous calendar year in the affected area.⁵ If a carrier so certifies and has not previously committed to providing 10/1 Mbps LTE in the affected area, the carrier must revise its performance plan to take into account the availability of the new backhaul option.⁶

¹ *Connect America Fund et al.*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 10139 (2016) (*Alaska Plan Order*); Letter from Jeffrey H. Smith, on behalf of ASTAC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 16-271, Attach. 2 at 2 (filed Nov. 1, 2018) (ASTAC 2018 Commitments); Letter from Julie A. Veach, Counsel to GCI, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, WC Docket No. 16-271, Attach. (July 1, 2019) (GCI 2019 Commitments).

² See *Alaska Plan Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 10166-67, para. 85.

³ See *id.*, at 10171, para. 97.

⁴ *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Approves Performance Plans of the Eight Wireless Providers That Elected to Participate in the Alaska Plan*, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 13317, Appx. (WTB 2016) (approving ASTAC's, GCI's, and six other providers' plans).

⁵ See *Alaska Plan Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 10172, para. 102.

⁶ *Id.*

In its 2018 FCC Form 481, ASTAC timely certified that terrestrial backhaul became commercially available.⁷ On July 11, 2018, ASTAC filed a letter revising its performance plan with updated commitments, replacing its approved plan.⁸ On November 1, 2018, ASTAC refiled these commitments in the attached format.⁹ We approve ASTAC's revised performance plan.¹⁰

On July 1, 2019, GCI updated its commitments to reflect the Quintillion undersea fiber cable becoming commercially available to GCI in Utqiagvik (formerly known as Barrow), Wainwright, and Point Hope, Alaska.¹¹ GCI is updating its last-mile commitments for 5,443 Alaskans previously reliant on satellite middle mile to fiber-based 10/1 Mbps LTE.¹² We approve GCI's revised performance plan.

Additional Information. For additional information on this proceeding, contact Matthew Warner of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Competition and Infrastructure Policy Division, Matthew.Warner@fcc.gov, (202) 418-2419.

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⁷ Form 481 Program Year 2019 Data (Non-Confidential), <https://www.usac.org/res/documents/hc/xls/templates/Form-481-Program-Year-2019-Data-Non-Confidential.xlsx> (showing a filing under tab 5013(a-c)).

⁸ See Letter from Douglas A. Neal, CEO, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 16-271 (filed Oct. 8, 2018). We note that OTZ Telephone Cooperative Inc. (OTZ) resubmitted its original commitments, which accounted for terrestrial middle mile becoming commercially available to Kotzebue, Alaska. Therefore, OTZ is in compliance.

⁹ See ASTAC 2018 Commitments.

¹⁰ See 47 CFR § 54.317(f); *Alaska Plan Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 10160, 10172, paras. 67, 102.

¹¹ Letter from Julie A. Veach, Counsel to GCI, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, WC Docket No. 16-271 (July 1, 2019).

¹² See GCI 2019 Commitments.

Appendix

Middle Mile	Population 2010 Census	Technology Of Transmission (477 Code)	Spectrum Codes (477 Code)	Minimum Expected Upload/ Download Speeds	Population Served 12/31/15	% Base Population Served 12/31/15	Note 2		Note 2		Minimum Expected Upload/ Download Speeds
							5 Year Base Population Served	5 Year % Total Population Served	10 Year Total Base Population Served	10 Year % Population Served	
Satellite*	6,427	86 (GSM) 2G	91	32/32 Kbps	6,427	100%					
		81 (HSPA+) 3G	90, 91				985	100%			1.0/25 Mbps
Total Satellite		83 (LTE) 4G	90, 91								
		86 (GSM)	91		6,427	100%	985	100%	985	100%	
Microwave/Fiber	2,576	83 (LTE) 4G	90, 91, 94				402	100%	402	100%	5.0/1.0 Mbps
Total					2,576	100%	402	100%	402	100%	
Fiber		83 (LTE) 4G	90, 91, 94				7,616	100%	7,616	100%	10.0/1.0 Mbps
Total Fiber							7,616	100%	7,616	100%	
Grand Total	9,003				9,003	100%	9,003	100%	9,003	100%	

Note 1: Population per 2010 Census in service area. Excludes population served by AT&T and/or Verizon at 4G LTE using their infrastructure. Includes Prudhoe Bay, AK pops but note that 100% of reported "residents" are oilfield (shift) workers. ASTAC has applied the "GCI Model" for population distribution within census blocks in all markets with the exception of the Prudhoe Bay region, where the private landholding logic does not correctly represent population distribution. ASTAC is able to illustrate that it covers 100% of the roads and all permanent lodging facilities in the region.

Note 2: Microwave/Fiber middle mile markets assumes use of multiple spectrums to deliver services. Year one is 2017.

* Today, the limiting factor for broadband speeds on HSPA+ and LTE technology in a satellite fed middle mile market is the cost of that transport, not the technology itself. If ASTAC's economics change in the future we will update our obligations.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program (PEP), Updated annually, <http://www.census.gov/popest/>; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census of Population, P94-171 Redistricting Data File, Updated every 10 Codes: <https://transition.fcc.gov/form477/477inst.pdf>

GCI Alaska Plan Performance Commitments - Updated July 1, 2019

	Note 1	Note 2	Note 3																
Middle Mile	Technology Of Transmission (477 Code)	Population 2010 Census	Population Served 12/31/15	% Base Population Served 12/31/15	5 Year Base Population Served	5 Year % Total Population Served	10 Year Total Base Population Served - Original	10 Year % Population Served - Original	10 Year Total Base Population Served - Revised 7/1/19	Increase/ (Decrease) by Year 10	10 Year % Population Served - Revised 7/1/19	Minimum Expected Download/ Upload Speeds at Edge	Spectrum Codes (477 Code)						
Fiber	83 (LTE)		13,455	21%	32,079	50%	64,158	100%		5,443	69,601	100%	10/1 Mbps	90, 91, 93, 94					
	80, 81, 82 (3G)	64,158	43,882	68%	25,258	39%	-	0%	-		-	0%	2/05 Mbps	90, 91, 93, 94					
	85, 86 (Voice/2G)		6,821	11%	6,821	11%	-	0%	-		-	0%	<2 Mbps	90, 91, 93, 94					
Fiber Total			64,158	100%	64,158	100%	64,158	100%		5,443	69,601	100%							
Microwave	83 (LTE)		125	0%	125	0%	42,095	83%		42,095	83%	2/8 Mbps	90, 91, 93, 94						
	80, 81, 82 (3G)	50,717	29,764	59%	41,970	83%	8,622	17%		8,622	17%	2/05 Mbps	90, 91, 93, 94						
	85, 86 (Voice/2G)		20,828	41%	8,622	17%	-	0%	-		-	0%	<2 Mbps	90, 91, 93, 94					
Microwave Total			50,717	100%	50,717	100%	50,717	100%		-	50,717	100%							
Satellite	83 (LTE)		-	0%	12,363	50%	12,363	50%		(4,213)	8,150	43%	1/256 Mbps	90, 91, 93, 94					
	80, 81, 82 (3G)	24,482	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%	-		-	0%	2/05 Mbps	90, 91, 93, 94					
	85, 86 (Voice/2G)		24,482	100%	12,119	50%	12,119	50%		(1,230)	10,889	57%	<2 Mbps	90, 91, 93, 94					
Satellite Total			24,482	100%	24,482	100%	24,482	100%		(5,443)	19,039	100%							
Total	83 (LTE)		13,580	10%	44,567	32%	118,616	85%		1,230	119,846	86%							
Total	80, 81, 82 (3G)		73,646	53%	67,228	48%	8,622	6%		-	8,622	6%							
Total	85, 86 (Voice/2G)		52,131	37%	27,562	20%	12,119	9%		(1,230)	10,889	8%							
Grand Total		139,357	139,357	100%	139,357	100%	139,357	100%		-	139,357	100%							

Note 1: Population per 2010 Census in service area. Excludes population served by AT&T and/or Verizon at 4G LTE using their infrastructure.

Note 2: Percentage of population served at benchmark speeds as of 12/31/15.

Note 3: Year 1 is 2017.